

**Bible Study**  
**1 Kings 17 – Elijah and the Drought**

1. Opening prayer and hymn
2. Ask the participants to read the passage prayerfully: 1 Kings 17
3. Ask them to summarize the passage in a few words, highlighting what is the situation... who is doing what... and how the situation changes... the main points / key ideas... etc.
4. Background information:
  - a. The king and the people of Israel were expected to be faithful to the covenant, but they were unfaithful – they were drawn to Baal worship because they believed that Baal was the god of agriculture and rain. So they had a mixture of worship of Yahweh and Baal.
  - b. Read 1 Kings 16:31-41 – it tells us that king Ahab married Jezebel, the daughter of the king of Sidon. This is a ‘marriage alliance’ with the neighboring kingdom. He also indulged in Baal Worship and child sacrifice, which was forbidden by Yahweh.
5. Analysis:
  - a. “El” means god, and “J” is pronounced as “Y”, i.e., “Jah” is a short form for “Yah-weh”. Thus the name of the prophet is very symbolic:

“Elijah” = God is Yahweh
  - b. Read v1: Who is really in control of the rain?  
Who did the people think was in control of rain and agriculture?
  - c. Read v 2-6: Who directs and feeds Elijah? Through whom?  
Do you remember any other incident in the OT where Yahweh was directing and feeding the people? Through whom? (manna in desert, through Moses)
  - d. Read v 7-9: Where is Elijah directed to go?  
Who else is from that place? Refer 1 Kings 16:31 (Jezebel)  
Who is the “god of that place”?
  - e. Read v 10-12 What is the situation there?
  - f. Read v 13-16 Who feeds the widow in Sidon?  
Any similarity with Num 11:7-8?  
So, who then is the real God even in Sidon?
  - g. Read v17-18 What is the reaction of the widow when her son is ill?  
Do you remember any other instance when the people grumbled immediately after being fed by God?
  - h. Read v 19-20 What role does Elijah play? (intercessor)  
To whom can he be compared? (Moses)
  - i. Read v21 The word “stretched”, what does it remind us of? (the Exodus)
  - j. Read v22-24 What is the end result? (faith in Yahweh as the Lord of Life)
6. After some time of Silent Reflection, ask the participants to underline what struck them in this passage, and what is God telling them through this passage?
7. Discuss:
  - a. Why do we so easily forget the works the Lord has done for us?
  - b. Can we share with others when we ourselves do not have enough?
  - c. Does God punish?
8. Concluding prayer and hymn